

March 13, 2014

My name is Liza Alers and I also have a deaf son, Dylan who's 10 years old. I know many interpreters through personal and professional but I'm here to speak from my and Dylan's experiences. They may be some people disagree or agree with me.

Last night, Dylan and I had discussion about our experiences and what we are hoping to see some changes. Dylan is currently attending Flanders Elementary School in Southington for almost 4 years now. In the past experiences, he had an interpreter without certification. He vented to me that he had a trouble understanding his interpreter due to her sign language. I had to ask the school to remove the interpreter and provide another interpreter to meet my son's needs.

Let me explain- for example – there are many deaf people who signed in American sign language or English Sign language- Dylan and I are mixed of both so it required for interpreters to modify to meet our needs to understand them. Those interpreters who already have certification are aware of how to modify for their clients' needs. This is why I feel it's very important for my son or any deaf/ hard of hearing children should have the interpreters with certification.

As a mom, I want the best for my son and I want him to be able to stay on the track with his peers. I had interpreters through middle and high school years- I will forever grateful for their support and took their time to make sure I understand what's happening in the classroom. I want the same experiences for my son.

I also wanted to mention regarding to your proposal. I do support of the idea of having those interpreters in specific field however with my experiences- I had same interpreter for my both birth. I know she is not "Medical setting" certificated but I know that I would feel comfortable knowing that she will ensure to tell me everything I need to know.

Lastly, if you go ahead with the proposal, I want you to be aware that it will not only struggle for those interpreters to meet those requirements. It will also be a struggle for deaf people because they are very few interpreters who have specific setting such as legal, medical, educational and etc. if you go ahead with the proposal- so Supposed we want to make an appointment, we have to wait more than 3 weeks due to short number of interpreters without those. I felt it is not fair for me or anyone. Its preventing our equally communicate access. If you strongly believe this should happen, I am asking you to please consider and change to within 2 years. It will give them time to take those training or any requirements.